

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

**THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!**



**DEC**  
**#4**



**JANSON**  
**KAVANAGH**  
**MACKIE**  
**SIENKIEWICZ**

# GAMBIT



**DIRECT EDITION**



7 59606 03633 2

\$2.50 US \$3.50 CAN

**FIRES**  
**BRIMSTONE**



IN DE  
MIDDLE  
OF IT.

AS  
USUAL.

DEMONESS  
NAME O' SYBIL  
IN FRONT O' ME,  
SPITTIN' LOCLISTS  
BY DE PLAGUEFUL.

AN' MY  
ANGEL,  
'ELLE --  
ANIELLE,  
BEHIND.

IF YOU  
BELIEVE IN  
ALL DAT, I  
MEAN.

FORK  
IN THE TRACKS.  
MORTAL --

-- DEAD  
AHEAD!



STAN LEE  
PRESENTS  
**GAMBIT**

**TERRY KAVANAGH** **KLAUS JANSSEN**  
(under orders from **HOWARD MACKIE**) and  
**BILL SIENKIEWICZ**  
writer artists  
**CHRISTIE MCCRELL** **STARKING COMICRAFT**  
colorist letters  
**KELLY CORVERS** **BOB HARRAS**  
editor editor in chief

# HEAVEN'S PROMISE



TOO BUSY  
TRYIN' T' STAY  
BREATHIN'.

--LIK--  
--LIK--

SYBIL'S  
HELLHOUND,  
CERBERUS, IS  
CUTTIN' OFF OUR  
RETREAT --

-- JUST WAITIN'  
FOR DE WITCH'S  
COMMAND T'  
POLICE --

-- AN' DIS  
SWARM'S LINDER  
HER CONTROL  
SOMEHOW, AS  
WELL.

CONCENTRATIN'  
DEIR ATTACK  
ON MY FACE,  
KEEPIN' ME  
OFF-BALANCE...

IF  
YOU COULD  
ONLY SEE WHAT  
I SEE, REAM  
LEAD!

THE  
LEFT TRACK  
LEADS TO A  
COMPLETED  
TUNNEL, AS  
INTENDED.  
CUTTING SAFELY  
ON SOUTH  
THROUGH THE  
ITALIAN ALPS  
TOWARD YOUR  
FINAL  
DESTINATION  
OF ROME.

THE  
RIGHT TRACK,  
ON THE OTHER  
HAND, IS NOT  
QUITE FINISHED  
YET.

I  
FORCED THE  
SWITCH-BOX TO THE  
RIGHT MYSELF, OF  
COURSE.

A  
WIN/WIN/WIN  
SITUATION  
FOR MY SIDE.  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?

ABANDON THE  
TRAIN AND YOU ABANDON  
ALL ABOARD TO SUDDEN,  
SHOCKING DEATHS -- PAIN-  
FULLY, FIERY ENDS THAT NEED  
NEVER HAVE HAPPENED --



-- ASSURING  
YOUR OWN PROUD  
PLACE IN OUR RANKS,  
EVENTUALLY AND  
ETERNALLY.

STAY  
AND DIE WITH  
THE DAMNED  
HERE AND  
NOW!

OR...

...DELIVER THE HEAVEN-SENT  
YOURSELF, SWORN TO MY  
SIRE, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE  
FOR ALL OF US.

CAN'T SEE NOTHIN'  
NO MORE, CAN'T  
HEAR NOTHIN'  
BLIT SYBIL...

...SYBIL'S  
SCREECHING...







...RIGHT  
HERE!

WFF

BOOM



SIB'S  
STUNNED,  
IF ONLY FOR A  
FEW PRECIOUS  
SECONDS...

...AN' HER  
BUGS ARE  
BUGGIN' --  
FLYIN'  
BLIND,  
GETTIN'  
LEFT  
BEHIND --

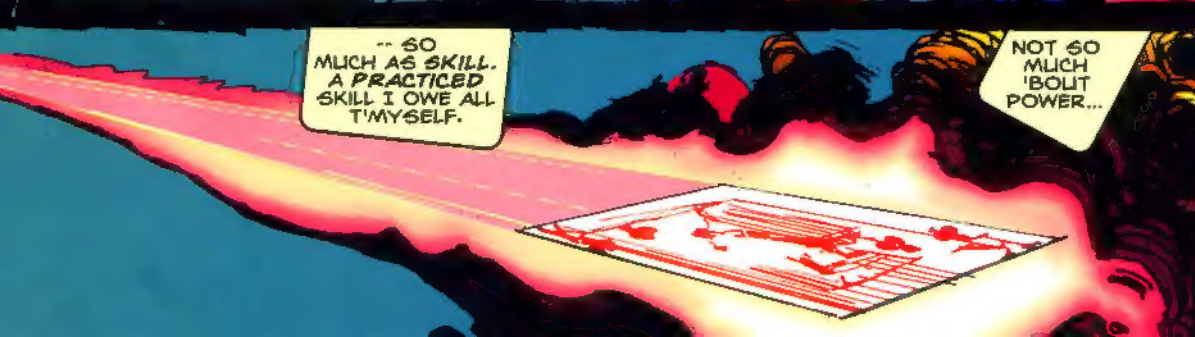
-- BUT DE  
END O' DE  
LINE'S  
COMIN' UP  
FAST.



LEAST A  
HUNDRED-  
AN-FIFTY-  
MILES-AN-  
HOUR  
FAST.

DIS AIN'T GONNA  
BE 'BOUT MY  
BIO-KINETIC  
ENERGIES --

-- DE MUTANT  
ABILITY I WAS  
BORN TO --



-- SO  
MUCH AS SKILL.  
A PRACTICED  
SKILL I OWE ALL  
T'MYSELF.

NOT SO  
MUCH  
'BOUT  
POWER...



...AS  
PRECISION.

-- COULD  
STILL GO  
EITHER  
WAY...

...GUESS  
DAT'S  
WHY DEY  
CALL ME  
"GAMBIT".

KCHOOOM!

A SHORT-  
CIRCUIT MIGHT  
TRIP THE SWITCH-  
BOX BACK T' DE  
DEFAULT SETTIN' --  
MIGHT NOT --

KRRK

CHHG  
CHH  
CH  
CH

MY LUCK  
HELD OUT  
FOR ONE MORE  
DEAL O' DE  
CARDS, LOOKS  
LIKE, BUT --

DERE'S  
ALWAYS  
A "BUT,"  
AIN'T  
DERE..?

RRROOOWRR







**RON,  
ANIELLE!**

GET T'  
VATICAN CITY, T' A  
FATHER BONAVITA O'  
DE GRIGORI ORDER --  
KATRINA'S ORDER --  
'FORE...

**GRRR**

**MMPH**

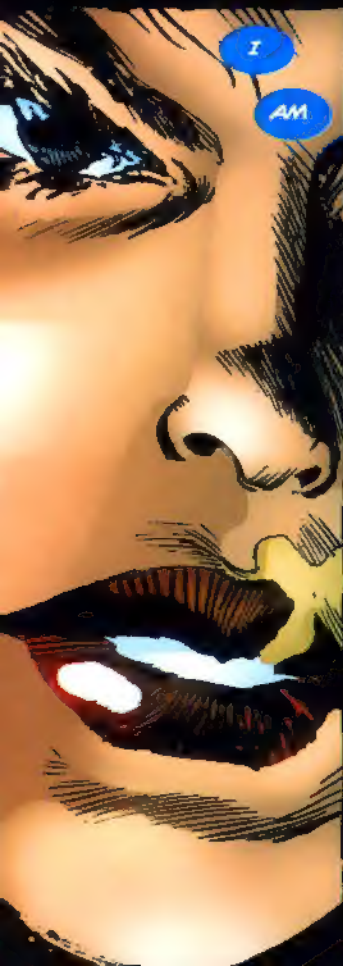
**NEVER!**

I  
PROMISE YOU  
THIS, MEAT -- IN  
THE NAME OF STOKER  
HIMSELF, SWORD OF  
DARKNESS AND  
DEPTHS --

-- WITH  
OR WITHOUT  
YOUR COVENANT OF  
DELIVERY, THE JUST-  
FALLEN WILL NEVER  
BE LONG TO THE LIGHT  
AGAIN!

'ELLE'S VOICE  
IN MY HEAD... HER  
SONG... GETTIN'  
LOUDER, SEEMS  
LIKE...

...CLEARER,  
EVEN...



**I**

**AM**



**THE**



**LIGHT**

**YEEAAA--**





CH CH CH CH CH CH CH





ROME.

AND  
WHAT A LONG  
STRANGE  
TRIP IT'S  
BEEN.

STARTED  
OUT INNOCENT  
ENOUGH, WAY  
I 'MEMBER IT.

A SIMPLE  
BURGLARY,  
I THOUGHT,  
STEALING  
DE CROSS O'  
REDEMPTION...

...FROM  
SOME  
CUBAN  
MOBSTER  
IN MIAMI  
BEACH...

...JUS' TO  
KEEP MY  
MIND OFF  
OTHER  
T'INGS,  
REALLY --

-- T'INGS NAME  
O' ROGUE, X-MEN,  
AN' A HISTORY  
O' MISTAKES I  
BEEN RLINNIN' FROM  
FOR TOO LONG --

-- TILL MY OL'  
TEACH, TANTE  
MATTIE, SHOWS  
UP...

...SPOLTIN' SOME  
SPIRITUAL  
CLAPTRAP 'BOUT  
DOIN' DE  
LORD'S WORK...

...AN' TELLIN  
ME DAT I DON'T  
GET TO CHOOSE.

NEXT T'ING  
I KNOW, I'M  
WARMIN' UP  
DE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL  
CREATURE  
I'VE EVER  
MET --

-- AN' RESCUIN'  
HER FROM  
SOMEONE --  
SOMETHING -- IN  
DE SHADOWS.

'COURSE, I END  
UP DEAD INSTEAD --  
'LEAST AS CLOSE  
AS I WANNA BE  
COMIN' F'R A LONG,  
LONG TIME --

-- UNTIL RESCUED  
BY MARCELO  
AN' KATRINA...

...SPOLTIN' SOME  
SPIRITUAL CLAP-  
TRAP 'BOUT DE  
GRIGORI...

...SOME SORT  
O' PAN-RELIGIOUS  
SECRET SECT  
DEDICATED TO ALL  
THE LORD'S WORK.

BLIT BROTHER  
MARCELO ENDS UP  
DEAD, FOR GOOD,  
AT DE HANDS OF  
SYBIL AN' HER  
ZOMBIES.

AN' KATRINA,  
MON AMOUREUX  
SISTER KATRINA --

-- ENDS UP IN  
DE HANDS OF  
OLIVIER STOKER  
HIMSELF. O



...DE DEVIL  
WHO'S  
AFTER MY  
ANGEL..

DERE,  
I SAID  
IT.

NOW I JUST  
GOTTA FIGURE  
OUT WHAT T' DO  
'BOUT IT.

CASED DE  
VATICAN ENOUGH  
TIMES BEFORE,  
WEIGHIN' DE  
ODDS...

CONSIDERIN'  
ALL DE...  
POSSIBILITIES --

-- TO KNOW DAT  
DE BELL ARCH  
GATE IS DE  
MOST PUBLICLY  
ACCESSIBLE.

WIT' DE ADDED  
PROTECTION OF  
A SWISS GUARD  
CONTINGENT.

PERFECT.

'CEPT I HAVE T'  
ASSUME DAT A  
HEFTY HORDE O'  
DE SEEMINGLY-  
INNOCENT FOLKS...

...HUSTLIN'  
DE PIAZZA DIS  
MORNIN'...  
ARE ACTUALLY  
STOKER'S...

...PET DEMONS,  
WEARIN' HUMAN  
SKINS...

...ALREADY  
POSITIONED AN'  
PRIMED TO T'TEAR  
LIS APART, SOON  
AS DEY CATCH  
OLUR SCENT.

AN'  
WE'RE  
OLITTA  
MIRACLES.

NOTHIN' MUCH  
LEFT O' ELLE'S  
GLOW NO MORE.

NOT SINCE SHE  
DID WHATEVER  
SHE DID T' BLOW  
APART SYBIL AN'  
HER BLOODHOUND.

AN' I CAN'T  
HARDLY  
EVEN HEAR  
HER SONG  
NOW  
MYSELF.

BUT IF SHE'S  
REALLY WHAT  
DEY SAY, WHAT  
I HOPE...

...WHAT I  
HOPE SHE  
CAN  
BE...

...TO  
ME...



LIP T' ME  
T' GET HER  
FROM HERE  
T' DERE  
SOMEH --

GRRRRR

CERBERUS--?!

ONE  
OF MANY  
CERBERUSES,  
IN FACT.

LEGION,  
YOU MIGHT EVEN  
SAY.

LIP  
DE LADDER,  
'ELLE -- NOW --  
NOW --  
-- I  
GOT Y'R  
TAIL!

KLMP TOK KLMP TOK KLMP TOK KLMP TOK KLMP TOK

THE HELLHOUNDS ARE AN ANCIENT  
LINEAGE, THIEF, FAR MORE PURE AND  
TRUE THAN YOUR OWN MONGREL  
BREED.

YOU  
WOULD DO WELL  
TO RESPECT ALL  
OUR PLACES IN  
THE SCHEME OF  
THINGS.

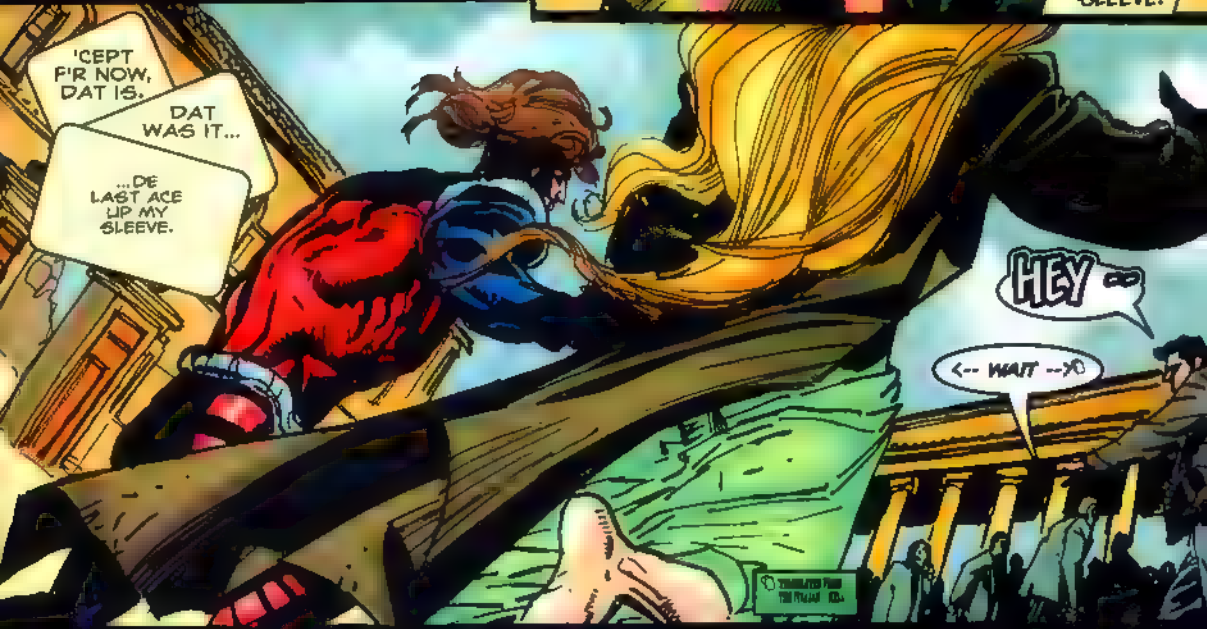
THE  
SCHEME OF  
THINGS TO  
COME.

A LIMP,  
STOKER...?

INJURIES  
SUSTAINED IN  
A... FALL.

A  
LONG FALL, I'M  
AFRAID.  
LONG  
AGO...









...SO I JUST  
HAVE T' CLUT  
'EM ALL OFF  
AT DE PASS!



DEMENTES --!

PROTECT  
THE VATICAN!>>

LAST  
O' MY LOOSE  
CHANGE TOOK OLT  
DE VENDORS' STALLS,  
'ELLE -- SLOWIN'  
DOWN OLIR  
PURSUIT --

TRANSLATED FROM  
THE FUTURE: 1984



-- BUT  
I DON'T HAVE  
NEAR 'NOUGH  
BIO-CHARGE T' SORT  
ALL DE WHITE HATS  
FROM DE BLACK  
LEFT 'TWEEN LIS AN'



OKAY...



...DAT  
HELPS.



AN' DERE  
GO MY CREDIT  
CARDS.

# POOM

SHOULD'VE  
KNOWN DIS  
WAS GOIN'  
WAY TOO WELL  
ALL ALONG.

OOHF!

LIK!

<LOCKDOWN!>

<SHUT THE  
GATE, SECURE  
THE BELL ARCH  
BEFORE  
THEY -->

<NO.>

<NOT YET,  
GUARDIA.>

PADRE  
BONAVITA --?!

<HAVE  
FAITH.>

NEITHER OF YOU WILL  
REACH THE HOLY GROUND,  
LEBEAU.

DEAD  
OR ALIVE.

# WUB

# WUB

# WUB



SYBIL'S  
SACRIFICE -- FORCING  
THE TWO OF YOU TO  
ABANDON THE TRAIN FAR  
EARLIER THAN YOU'D  
PLANNED --

UHHN...

-- ALLOWED  
ME MORE THAN  
ENOUGH TIME TO  
PREPARE A PROPER  
WELCOME FOR YOU  
HERE.

I  
CALL HER  
BLACK  
KAT.

AND  
WORMWOOD.  
WORMWOOD.  
WORMWOOD.  
DON'T  
FORGET  
WORMWOOD

'TRINA...









STAY PUT,  
L'ABBE!

INSIDE  
DAT GATE,  
WHERE DEY  
CAN'T TOUCH  
Y--

R-RKK

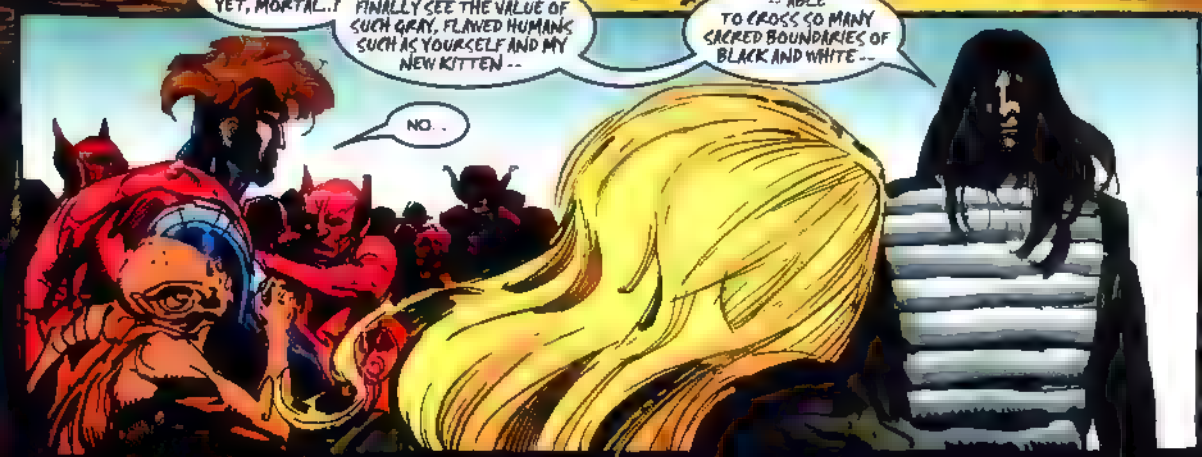
KATRINA

DO YOU  
NOT UNDERSTAND  
YET, MORTAL...!

DO YOU NOT  
FINALLY SEE THE VALUE OF  
SUCH GRAY, FLAWED HUMANS  
SUCH AS YOURSELF AND MY  
NEW KITTEN --

-- ABLE  
TO CROSS SO MANY  
SACRED BOUNDARIES OF  
BLACK AND WHITE --

NO...



-- ABLE  
TO DELIVER  
ONE UNTO THE  
OTHER...





DAT'S  
IT, ISN'T  
IT..?

T' KEEP  
LIGHT FROM BURNIN'  
DARK DIRECTLY, YOU  
USED ME FROM THE  
BEGINNIN'.

YOU  
NEED ME,  
STOKER, NEED  
ME T' HANDLE  
ANIELLE..

OR  
ONE LIKE YOU,  
LEBEAU.

BELIEVE  
ME, THEY ARE  
LEGION.

FOUND  
OVER YOUR DEAD  
BODY, IF NECESSARY,  
OVER ALL YOUR DEAD  
BODIES..

...BUT  
THE CHOICE IS  
YOURS, 'GAMBIT', IT  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
YOURS.



YOUNG  
KATRINA'S SOUL,  
STILL RELATIVELY  
INTACT, DESPITE THE  
INNOCENCE  
YOU SO CASUALLY  
SHATTERED...

...FOR  
THE AGELESS  
ANGEL AT YOUR  
SIDE, WILLINGLY  
OFFERED.



ONE OR  
THE OTHER WILL  
BE MINE.



I  
BELIEVE  
NOTHIN'  
YOU SAY,  
DEMON.

GOT ONE MORE  
CREDIT CARD,  
AN' ONE LAST  
CHARGE WORTH  
MUSTERIN'.

I'M NOT GIVIN'  
LIP 'ELLE  
WIT'OUT A  
FIGHT...





...BUT I CAN'T  
JUST STAND BY  
AN' LET KAT DO  
SOMETHIN' T' DE  
OL' MAN...

...DAT SHE'LL  
REGRET FOR DE  
REST O' HER --

ANIELLE..



...WHERE  
YOU GOIN',  
'ELLE --?!

AFTER  
ALL WE BEEN  
T'ROUGH T' GET  
DIS FAR, ANGEL, I'M  
NOT 'BOUT T' LET  
YOU WALK RIGHT  
INT' HIS...



ANGELS  
AN'  
DEVILS.



HEAVEN  
AN'  
HELL.  
  
ALL DERE, RIGHT  
DERE IN DE EYES  
O' ..



KATRINA.



DIS...

TOGETHER,  
HANEAL.



...DIS IS  
MY MOMENT  
O' CHOICE.

FIRE  
SHALL MELT  
ICE, WATER  
SHALL COOL  
FLAMES.

AND, TOGETHER,  
WE WILL CREATE A  
FORCE TO SURVIVE THE  
RECKONING...



...SPRINKLING  
A THIRD MILLENNIUM  
BEYOND NATURE'S WILDEST  
IMAGINA--

NOOOOOO

NO  
NO NO  
NO

JUST LOST  
SIGHT O' DE  
TREES FOR  
DE FOREST,  
FOR A WHILE  
DERE.

GOT SO SWEPT  
UP IN DIS EPIC  
OPERA O' GOOD  
AN' EVIL IN ALL DE  
POSSIBILITIES...

EVEN DE  
GLORIOUS  
POSSIBILITY  
DAT GAMBIT  
COULD ACTUALLY  
RETURN.

...A TROPHY-PIECE  
T' GOD HIMSELF --

DAT I MIGHT  
EARN SOME MAJOR  
REDEMPTION  
POINTS WIT'  
SUCH A GRAND  
GESTURE --

-- I  
FAILED T'  
RECOGNIZE  
A SIMPLE  
HUMAN  
SOUL IN  
TROUBLE.

RRRR





FAILED T' RECOGNIZE  
DE TRUE  
NATURE  
O' DE BEAST.

R-REMY..?

UNTIL IT WAS  
ALMOST TOO  
LATE.



GONE.

AN'  
SHE TOOK  
STOKER WITH  
HER.  
YOUR  
HANEAL WAS  
MERELY  
EPHEMERA, I  
SUSPECT.

AN  
ANGEL CREATED  
FOR ONE SPECIFIC  
PURPOSE, GRANTED  
A VERY LIMITED  
LIFESPAN...



"YOU MAKE  
ME SPECIAL,"  
SHE 'SAID'.

"YOU  
AN'..."



"...ONE  
OTHER."

KATRINA  
AN' I.

WE ARE DE TWO --  
TOGETHER --



-- WHO  
GAVE 'ELLE  
PURPOSE...

THE  
DEVIL GOT  
WHAT HE WANTED,  
IT SEEMS, BUT IT  
WOULD APPEAR TO  
HAVE BEEN THE FAR  
LESS VALUABLE  
PRIZE.





SOULS COME SO EFFORTLESSLY TO HIM IN THESE DARK DAYS, NO DOUBT, THAT STOKER IGNORED HIS 'EASY CATCH' FOR A SHOT AT THE BRIGHTER, MORE ALLURING JEWEL.

BUT YOU DID NOT, SIGNORE LeBEAU.

NOT WHEN IT COUNTED.

IN THE END, YOU RECOGNIZED THE PRICELESS VALUE OF ONE WOMAN'S SOUL OVER EVERYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION...

...AND JUST MAY HAVE FOUND YOUR OWN IN THE PROCESS.

'FRAID IT'S NOT ALL DAT EASY.

NOT F'R ME.



A MAN DIED OUT THERE...

...A GOOD MAN, IN THE SERVICE OF HIS LORD.

KATRINA AND I WILL GRIEVE, AND PRAY, FOR BROTHER MARCELO TOGETHER.

NO SOUL ALONE CAN SAVE ITSELF, SON.

IT TAKES A HUMAN SPIRIT TO SALVAGE A HUMAN SPIRIT, WE'RE TALIGHT, AND WHEN ONE DOES REDEEM ANOTHER...



...PERHAPS IT ALSO REDEEMS ITSELF.

IF, FATHER...

...AN' ONLY IF...



...I CHOOSE T' BELIEVE SO..

KING



DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND YET, MORTAL...?  
IN THE END-TIMES, AS THE LIGHT FAILS, ALL WILL TURN TO THE DARK FOR ITS FAMILIAR COMFORT.



K  
R  
A  
K  
TOON

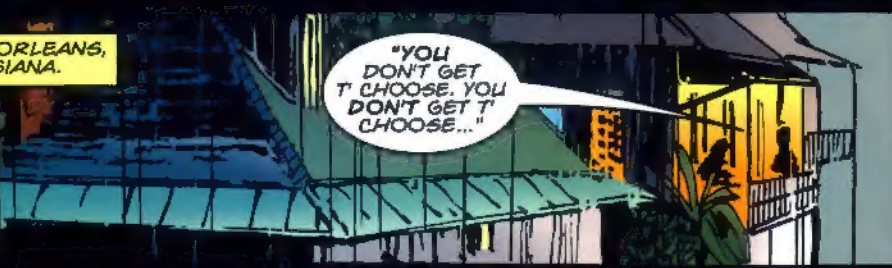
YOU DON'T GET TO CHOOSE.



THE NEXT MORNING.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

"YOU DON'T GET T' CHOOSE. YOU DON'T GET T' CHOOSE..."



...YOU SAID IT T' ME MORE DAN ONCE, TANTE.

REALLY, BOY...?  
WAS DIS WHEN I WAS A FLOATIN' GHOST WHAT NO ONE COULD SEE BUT YOU, OR WHEN YOU WAS LOSIN' OXYGEN T' YOUR BRAIN DURING DE DROWNIN'...?

BOTH.



AN' DEN DAT LITTLE WORM REPEATED IT IN STOKER'S VOICE --

-- BEFORE VANISHIN' INTO DE...



ARE YOU SAYIN' IT WASN'T YOU -- YOU WEREN'T DERE --

-- YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT...?!







KAT  
TOLD ME DAT  
YOU WERE DE ONE  
WHO LED HER AN'  
MARCELO T' MY  
RESCUE IN  
MIAMI...

I'M  
TRYIN' T'  
SAY, REMY-  
CHILD --  
-- DAT  
IT JUS' AIN'T  
ALL DAT BLACK-  
AN'-WHITE...



THE NEXT  
EVENING.

THE SISTINE  
CHAPEL,  
VATICAN CITY.



KATRINA.  
IN  
CIVILIAN  
CLOTHES.



STRONGER,  
LOOKS  
T' ME --  
-- SLUR  
OF STEP,  
SOMEHOW --

OK  
OK  
OK



